

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

Claim 26. (Previously presented): A floor covering material comprising a PVC layer and having aggregate embedded in the material for providing surface roughness wherein the material incorporates a barrier layer of polymeric material other than PVC fused into the upper surface of the PVC layer, the aggregate being embedded in the PVC layer and exposed at the upper surface of the barrier layer.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the barrier layer is of a cured polymeric material.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the barrier layer is of a thermoplastic material.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the barrier layer is at least as flexible as the underlying PVC layer.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the barrier layer is transparent or translucent.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the polymeric material of the barrier layer provides enhanced dirt release and/or stain resistance in comparison to the PVC.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the barrier layer comprises a polyolefin, (co-)polyester, (co-)polyamide, polyurethane, phenol formaldehyde, epoxy or acrylic polymer or a mixture thereof.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the floor covering material has an embossed surface.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) A material according to claim 26 wherein the aggregate is quartz, corundum, and/or silicon carbide.

Claims 35-50 (Canceled)